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# ANNUAL REPORT

Town Hall, Blackburn.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKBURN



HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE  
WELFARE SERVICES OF BLACKBURN

including the Welfare of the Aged, Blind,

Deaf and Dumb and other Handicapped

Persons

For the Year 1962

BY

T. C. ARMISTEAD

Director of Welfare Services

Town Hall, Blackburn.



## HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

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The Mayor

(Alderman Mrs. M. A. McNamee)

Alderman	Critchley J.P.	
Alderman	Lomax	
Alderman	Mrs. McNamee	(Vice-Chairman)
Alderman	Whitehead J.P.	
Councillor	Appleby	
Councillor	Bramwell	
Councillor	Dawson	(Chairman)
Councillor	Ellis J.P.	
Councillor	Gregson	
Councillor	Mrs. Heyworth	
Councillor	Miss Lewis	
Councillor	Marsden J.P.	
Councillor	Marsh	
Councillor	McNamee	
Councillor	Nuttall	
Councillor	Poole	(died 27.7.62.)
Councillor	Mrs. Railton	

### Co-opted Members

Mrs. P. N. Ashworth  
Mr. T. Dewhurst J.P.  
Mr. F. Gorton  
Dr. D. O'Driscoll, M.B. Ch.B.  
Dr. H. Southworth, M.D.

Town Clerk:

FRANK S. SQUIRES, Esq.

## ACCOMMODATION SUB-COMMITTEE

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Alderman	Mrs. McNamee	(Chairman)
Councillor	Dawson	
Councillor	Ellis J.P.	
Councillor	Mrs. Heyworth	
Councillor	Miss Lewis	(Vice-Chairman)
Councillor	Marsden J.P.	
Councillor	Marsh	
Councillor	Poole	(died 27.7.62.)
Councillor	Mrs. Railton	
	Mrs. J. Bell	

## HANDICAPPED PERSONS SUB-COMMITTEE

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Alderman	Mrs. McNamee	
Councillor	Dawson	
Councillor	Mrs. Heyworth	
Councillor	Miss Lewis	(Vice-Chairman)
Councillor	Marsden J.P.	
Councillor	Marsh	(Chairman)
Councillor	McNamee	
Councillor	Poole	(died 27.7.62)
Councillor	Mrs. Railton	
	Mr. F. Gorton	
	Mr. N. B. Kingston	

Town Hall,

Blackburn.

June, 1963.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report upon the Welfare Services of the County Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

#### Residential Accommodation

Local Authorities are required to provide residential accommodation for persons who by reason of age, infirmity or other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them.

In a Circular issued by the Ministry of Health immediately prior to the operation of the Welfare Services it was stated that the persons for whom residential accommodation would be required would not include sick persons needing treatment in hospital, but would include elderly, infirm, disabled and sub-normal persons who were unable to care for themselves in their own homes, and could not obtain from relatives, friends and others the care and attention they require. Furthermore, residential accommodation was to be a substitute for a normal home and must meet the reasonable needs of the residents.

From time to time the Ministry of Health has emphasised the desirability of providing residential accommodation in small units, and in the Ten Year Plan for the Health and Welfare Services presented to Parliament in April, 1963, urges that action be taken to effect the early vacation of former public assistance establishments.

During 1962 two purpose-built hostels, "Shadsworth House" and "Fenisccliffe Bank", each providing accommodation for 47 residents, were brought into operation and in a short time were filled to capacity as a result of the transfer of a number of residents from "Park View" and the admission of a number of persons from their own homes.



The need of additional residential accommodation is growing steadily. There were still 183 residents in "Park View" on the 31st December, 1962, and there is a list of about 50 (a number of whom are desperately in need of care and attention) awaiting admission to hostels.

On the 31st December, 1962, a total of 333 residents (including 11 from the area of the Lancashire County Council) were accommodated in the five local authority hostels in Blackburn.

Compared with a total of 175 Blackburn residents accommodated on the 5th July, 1948, when the Welfare Services were established, this represents an increase of 84% in the number of Blackburn residents in the hostels.

37% of the residents were between 70 and 79 years of age, and 40% were 80 years of age and over, including 13 over 90 years of age.

The majority of persons now being admitted are in the higher age groups with an increasing degree of infirmity, frailty and senility.

With the object of vacating "Park View" as early as possible and meeting the increasing need of residential accommodation the Committee's ten year plan for the Health and Welfare Services includes the provision of 7 additional hostels for the aged, which together with "West Bank", "Hillside", "Shadsworth House" and "Feniscliffe Bank" will provide accommodation for a total of about 490 residents.

At the 31st December, 1962, residential accommodation was provided as follows:-

<u>Name of Establishment</u>	<u>Accommodation</u>		<u>No. of Residents</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
"Park View"	104	94	89	94
"Hillside"	-	35	-	34
"West Bank"	9	15	9	15
"Shadsworth House"	19	28	18	27
"Feniscliffe Bank"	19	28	19	28
	<u>151</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>198</u>

These numbers include 8 men and 3 women who are 'County' residents, and the total number of County Borough residents was therefore 322.



The following is an analysis of the periods during which the present residents of the Committee's hostels have been accommodated:-

- 115 for less than one year;
- 130 for more than one but less than five years;
- 45 for more than five but less than ten years;
- 19 for more than ten but less than fifteen years;
- 11 for more than fifteen but less than twenty years;
- 13 for more than twenty years.

The average age of the residents in all the hostels is 76; 11 years higher than was the case in 1948.

### Amenities

Trolley shops, serviced by members of the Women's Voluntary Services, are now provided at all the hostels and are very much appreciated. They are of considerable assistance to the residents, especially those who are unable to visit the shops.

Books, periodicals, newspapers, radio, television, and indoor games are provided at the hostels; cinema shows have been provided during the Winter months, and outings arranged in the Summer. Religious Services are held regularly.

Social activities and entertainments were arranged for the residents during the Christmas Season, including parties, concerts and a special cinema show.

### Medical, etc. Services

The majority of the residents are registered for medical attention with Dr. J. A. Noblett, a local practitioner. A small number have expressed a desire to retain the services of the doctor with whom they were registered prior to admission and arrangements have been made accordingly.

Optical and dental treatment and the provision of surgical appliances under the National Health Service Act are of course available to all the residents.

The services of the Chiropodist at Queen's Park Hospital are available to the residents of "Park View"; local chiropodists attend the residents at "Hillside" and "West Bank" and two chiropodists from the Health Department attend the residents at "Shadsworth House" and "Fenisccliffe Bank".

Physiotherapists from the Health Department also attend the residents.

## Temporary Accommodation

It is the duty of the Welfare Services Committee to provide temporary accommodation for persons who are in need of such accommodation in circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, but the Ministry of Health has stated that this provision is not to be used for dealing with the inadequately housed. Neither is it intended as a provision for persons without a settled way of life for whom the National Assistance Board are responsible.

Arrangements have been made for accommodation, sleeping, feeding, etc. for persons temporarily homeless by reason of fire, flood or other catastrophe, but have not been required during the past year.

Temporary accommodation was, however, provided at "Park View" during the year for 18 women and 49 children for short periods, mainly for persons evicted from their homes. In one of these cases accommodation was provided for one night only, in 8 cases for periods varying from 3 days to 3 weeks, and in one case for a period of 15 weeks.

One woman, with her 9 children, were in temporary accommodation on the 31st December, 1962.

### Accommodation in other Homes

Six persons whose "ordinary residence" is in the County Borough and for whom the Blackburn Corporation is responsible, are accommodated in the following Homes, viz:-

Springhill Home for the Blind, Nelson ...	1 blind man
Catholic Blind Institute, Liverpool .....	1 blind man
Maghull Homes for Epileptics .....	1 man
St. John's Guild for the Blind, St. Albans .....	1 blind woman
"Plas Coed", Rhyl .....	1 aged woman
Broughton House, Salford .....	1 disabled person

### Epileptics

The Committee is responsible for the care and accommodation of persons suffering from epilepsy. In addition to one man in the Maghull Homes (referred to above), there are 5 residents in "Park View" and 19 persons from the County Borough in the Colony, Langho, who are epileptics.

# Statistics

	"Park View"				"Hillside"				"West Bank"				"Shadsworth House"				"Fenisccliffe Bank"				Total	
	Men	Women	Ch.	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Ch.	Total		
	122	103	-	225	35		24	9	15		1	1	24	1	6	7	7	9	16	131	153	284
Total 31.12.61.	43	70	49	162	1				1													
Admitted from																						
Home	43	70	49	162	1				1													
Hospitals	38	32		70	5			1	2													
Hostels		2		2	10			1	1													
Elsewhere	3	3		6																		
	206	210	49	465	51			11	19		22	34	56	21	31	52	260	345	49	654		
Discharged to																						
Home	12	24	40	76	1																	
Hospitals	29	14		43	12			1	2													
Hostels	40	54		94	1			2	2													
Elsewhere	5			5	1																	
Died	31	23		54	2			1	1													
Total 31.12.62.	89	95	9	193*	34			9	15		18	27	45	19	28	47	135	199	9	343		

\* Included in figures for "Park View" are :-

Accommodated on behalf of Lancashire County Council 8 men and 3 women  
 Temporary Accommodation .. ..... 1 woman and 9 children



### Classification

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
Aged and physically infirm .....	45	76	121
Aged and mentally infirm .....	26	44	70
Aged but not materially handicapped by infirmity .....	33	48	81
Blind .....	4	10	14
Deaf .....	4	3	7
Epileptic .....	2	3	5
Physically Infirm (not aged) .....	10	6	16
Mentally Infirm (not aged) .....	11	8	19
	<u>135</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>333</u>

### Age Groups

The following table shows the age groups of the residents on the 31st December, 1962:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 40 years of age .....	1	-	1
40 to 49 " " " .....	1	5	6
50 to 59 " " " .....	4	11	15
60 to 64 " " " .....	16	3	19
65 to 69 " " " .....	16	17	33
70 to 79 " " " .....	49	75	124
80 to 89 " " " .....	46	76	122
90 years and over .....	2	11	13
	<u>135</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>333</u>

### Age Groups of Epileptics under Care

	<u>Maghull</u>	<u>"Park View"</u>		<u>Langho Colony</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	
Under 30 years	1	-	-	-	-	1
31 to 40 "	-	-	-	4	1	5
40 to 49 "	-	-	-	3	2	5
50 to 59 "	-	-	-	3	3	6
60 to 69 "	-	-	1	-	1	2
70 years and over	-	2	2	1	1	6
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>25</u>

Payments for Accommodation

	<u>Net amount collected</u>	<u>Average No. accommodated</u>	<u>Average paid per resident</u>
	£		£
"Park View"			
Borough Cases	25,203	210.6	119.2
County Cases	1,323*	11.1	119.2
"Hillside"	4,853	34.5	140.7
"West Bank"	3,216	23.7	135.7
"Shadsworth House"	3,880	28.1	138.0
"Feniscliffe Bank"	2,498	18.7	133.5
	<u>40,973</u>	<u>326.7</u>	<u>125.4</u>
 Total, excluding County Cases	 £ <u>39,650</u>	 <u>315.6</u>	 £ <u>125.6</u>

\*      Credited to Lancashire County  
                         Council.



## Welfare of Aged Persons in their Homes

It is now 12 years since the scheme of welfare for aged persons in their homes was introduced, and it continues to be of considerable benefit to an increasing number of aged persons.

On the 31st December, 1962, there were 1910 persons on the Department's Register. The following is a summary of the age groups of those on the Register who are living alone:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
65 to 69 years of age .....	10	141	151
70 to 74 " " " .....	34	341	375
75 to 79 " " " .....	60	396	456
80 to 84 " " " .....	51	287	338
85 to 89 " " " .....	23	94	117
90 years and over .....	10	19	29
	<u>188</u>	<u>1278</u>	<u>1466</u>

In addition the Register includes 219 cases in which two or more aged persons are living together, representing 444 persons.

During the year the members of the Staff made almost 13,850 visits to the homes of these persons, and Voluntary Visitors were visiting 16 aged persons.

Co-operation with the National Assistance Board, Nationalised Undertakings, various Corporation Departments, the W.V.S. and other voluntary organisations has been maintained in order that the many and varying needs of the aged can be met, and in many instances voluntary organisations and individuals have made valuable contributions to the well-being of old people by providing personal services outside the scope of existing statutory provision, viz: provision of clothes, bedding, furniture, shopping, transport, outings, voluntary visiting.

Community service groups have been established at a number of secondary schools and have been very active. During the Christmas Season many of the aged were the recipients of gifts from these Groups, some of whom have continued to give practical help in the homes and also by way of gardening.

The members of Toc H again arranged an evening outing and supper for a number of aged men.

There are several old people's clubs in the town which provide focal points of interest and activity, and play an important part in the lives of their members.

The Committee made grants to a number of these clubs during the year.

## Handicapped Persons

Local authorities maintain registers of all handicapped persons who seek assistance from the Welfare Services, but there is no compulsory registration.

On the 31st December, 1961, the national average of all classes of handicapped persons (blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing and in the general classes) was 5.6 per 1000 of the population. The average for Blackburn on the same date was 5.7

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It is the duty of the Council to make arrangements for all applicants for registration as blind persons to be examined by an ophthalmologist of consultant status.

There were 228 blind persons on the Register on the 31st December, 1962, 7 fewer than the previous year.

95 registered blind persons were under 65 years of age, and 133 were 65 years of age or more.

Newly registered blind persons are mainly in the higher age groups, and the number over 65 years of age is more than 60% of the blind population.

21 persons were certified as blind by the Ophthalmologist during the year: 7 men, 13 women and one child.

18 persons were certified as partially sighted - 5 men and 13 women.

Of the 9 registered blind children, 2 were at a special school at Wavertree, Liverpool, 2 at a special school at West Derby, Liverpool, one at the Sunshine Home, Southport, 2 at Henshaw's Institute, Manchester, and 2 were at home on the 31st December, 1962.

The following shows the number of additions to the Register, transfer and deaths.

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Number on Register, 31st December, 1961	99	136
Registered during 1962	8	13
Transferred from other Areas	4	2
Transferred to other Areas	1	1
Deaths	13	18
Decertified	-	1
Number on Register at 31st December, 1962	<u>97</u>	<u>131</u>

Age Groups of Registered Blind

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
2 years of age	1	-
5 to 10 years of age	4	1
11 to 20 " " "	1	3
21 to 29 " " "	4	2
30 to 39 " " "	2	4
40 to 49 " " "	11	10
50 to 59 " " "	21	14
60 to 69 " " "	19	31
70 to 79 " " "	17	36
80 years and over	17	30
	<u>97</u>	<u>131</u>

Ages at which Blindness occurred

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
0 to 1 year	21	28
2 to 4 years of age	1	3
5 to 10 " " "	3	4
11 to 20 " " "	7	6
21 to 29 " " "	5	3
30 to 39 " " "	12	6
40 to 49 " " "	10	17
50 to 59 " " "	12	11
60 to 69 " " "	8	24
70 to 79 " " "	15	24
80 years and over	3	5
	<u>97</u>	<u>131</u>



Important duties of the Home Teachers for the Blind are the discovery of blind persons and the ascertainment of their needs, regular visiting, teaching them to read embossed literature, teaching handicrafts, instructing them in methods of overcoming their disabilities, advising on services available, organising social centres and in general promoting their welfare.

The 2 Home Teachers made 2974 visits to blind and partially sighted persons during the year; attendances at classes for instruction in Braille and Moon were 35; attendances at the handicraft classes were 520 and a number of blind persons received tuition in their own homes by the Home Teachers.

An exhibition of work done by blind persons who attend the handicraft classes was held in the Public Halls, and at the same time handicrafts by handicapped persons and residents of "Park View" and "Hillside" were exhibited.

It is the duty of the Council to arrange for the employment of suitable blind persons, and in this connection training and "sheltered" employment is provided in the Workshop for the Blind; the Council is also responsible for providing facilities for assisting blind persons desirous of engaging in work on their own account to carry out such work in their own homes, occupational centres or elsewhere.

There are 30 blind employees, one sighted disabled person and 13 other sighted employees at the Workshop. Two blind persons are engaged as travelling salesmen, 6 blind men are employed in the skip department, 15 blind and one partially sighted in the brush department, and 7 women in the knitting department. There are also 2 Home Workers, both Braille Copyists. Several of the blind employees are from the area of the Lancashire County Council.

Full employment has been maintained during the year.

An annual grant of 75% of the expenditure incurred in providing employment facilities for approved blind workers in special Workshops is made by the Ministry of Labour, subject to a maximum of £240 annually for each blind employee. The Ministry also pay allowances to blind and partially sighted during their training for employment.

#### Report of Working Party

During the year the Ministry of Labour issued a Report of a Working Party on Workshops for the Blind.

The most important recommendations in the Report appear to be:-

- (a) That a Central Organisation should be established which would serve as an advisory organisation to Workshops for the blind and undertake commercial operations on their behalf.
- (b) That there should be a co-ordinated programme of capital development aimed primarily at introducing new forms of production in place of the traditional crafts.
- (c) That the Central Organisation should explore all possible channels for the sale of Workshop goods, and provide a central marketing and sales organisation to be financed by a commission from the Workshops on sales.
- (d) That a new wages structure be introduced for blind workers.
- (e) That a Joint Industrial Council for Workshops for the blind should be established covering the whole of Great Britain.

The Report is at present being considered by the Minister.



In addition to the blind people who are employed at the Workshop for the Blind, a number are employed in open industry. The total number of local blind persons in employment is 25 men and 9 women and they are employed as follows:-

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Assembler	1	-
Basket workers	4	-
Braille copyists	-	2
Brush makers	10	-
Home Teacher for the Blind	1	-
Knitters (machine)	-	5
Labourers	3	-
Laundry worker	1	-
Musician	1	-
Packer	-	1
Shopkeeper	1	-
Telephone operator	1	-
Traveller	1	-
Typist	-	1
Sighted industry	1	-
	<u>25</u>	<u>9</u>

#### Social Activities

The Blackburn and Darwen Society for the Blind have continued to arrange, with the assistance of the Home Teachers, fortnightly tea parties for blind persons in the County Borough, and have also provided each blind person with a gift of fruit at Easter, a gift of 15/- at Christmas and arranged 2 outings for the blind during the Summer months.

#### Blind Persons in Homes, Hospitals, etc.

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
"Park View"	2	2
"Hillside"	-	4
"Feniscliffe Bank"	2	2
"Shadsworth House"	1	1
Springhill, Nelson	1	-
Langho Colony	1	-
Queen's Park Hospital	1	3
Park Lee Hospital	1	-
Brockhall Hospital	1	1
Catholic Home for the Blind, Liverpool	1	-
	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>

## Other Facilities

There are many facilities available to the Blind, apart from those provided directly by the Welfare Services Committee, e.g. -

free 'bus passes (from the local Transport Dept.):

free radio sets (from The Wireless for the Blind Fund): and free radio licences:

white sticks, braille watches and other equipment and articles essential or useful to blind persons (at special cheap prices from the Royal National Institute for the Blind):

Guide Dogs (from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association):

books, etc. in Braille and Moon (from the Northern Branch, National Library for the Blind):

talking books and records (from the Talking Book Library for the Blind):

and the Home Teachers regularly assist blind persons to obtain or avail themselves of these.

## Library Service

The Northern Branch of the National Library for the Blind provide a wide range of books in Braille and Moon.

More than 25% of the blind persons in Blackburn take advantage of these facilities.

## Deaf/Blind Persons

Those who are deaf as well as blind, and are on the local register, are visited by the Home Teachers for the Blind, and also by the staff of the North & East Lancashire Association for the Deaf.

### Deaf/Blind Persons

Of the persons on the Register for the Blind 15 are also deaf or hard of hearing and are shown in the following categories:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Deaf/Blind without speech	-	1
Deaf/Blind with speech	-	4
Deaf/Blind - Hard of Hearing	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>

### Partially Sighted

An 'observation' register of partially sighted persons is maintained in the Department. This is divided into 2 categories, viz:-

1. Persons with serious defective vision which is likely to deteriorate within a period of 4 years to a point at which they would become eligible for registration as blind persons; and
2. Persons with sufficiently defective vision to qualify for registration as partially sighted persons, but for whom the ophthalmologist's diagnosis and prognosis suggests that they are not likely to become certifiable as blind within a period of 4 years.

There were 52 persons on the 'observation' register on the 31st December, 1962, 9 more than the previous year.

### Partially Sighted

The following Table shows the age groups of the persons on the Observation Register of Partially Sighted:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
5 to 15 years	1	2
16 " 20 "	-	2
21 " 49 "	4	4
50 " 64 "	2	6
65 years and over	6	25
	<u>13</u>	<u>39</u>

and the following shows the various categories of Partially Sighted Persons:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Group A - Prospective Blind	5	18
" B - Industrially handicapped but in employment.	4	5
" C - Requiring observation	3	14
" D - Children	1	2
	<u>13</u>	<u>39</u>

### Causes of Blindness or Partial Sight in the Cases Registered during the year

	<u>Blind</u>	<u>Partially Sighted</u>
Cataract	9	10
Glaucoma	2	3
Diabetes	1	-
Macular degeneration	5	4
Astigmatism	1	-
Buphthalmos	1	-
Keratitis	1	-
Choroiditis	1	1
	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>

## Deaf and Dumb

Persons with a hearing loss are now classified as follows:-

Deaf without Speech - Those who have no useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by signs, finger spelling or writing.

Deaf with Speech - Those who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing but whose normal method of communication is by speech or lip reading.

Hard of Hearing - Those who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip reading.

These classifications were introduced as from the 1st January, 1962, but in fact these factual differences have been recognised for a long time by Welfare Officers for the Deaf.

The North & East Lancashire Welfare Association for the Deaf continues to act as agent of the Council in connection with the welfare of deaf persons in the County Borough. The Council paid the Association £16 per annum in respect of each deaf person on the Register over the age of 16 years. Provision is made for local authority representation on the Committee of the Association.

There were 59 persons on the Register at the end of 1962, the majority of whom were deaf and dumb. The following table shows the age groups:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
16 to 20 years of age	3	3
21 " 30 " " "	10	2
31 " 40 " " "	2	2
41 " 50 " " "	6	4
51 " 60 " " "	4	4
61 " 69 " " "	7	2
70 years and over	5	5
	<u>37</u>	<u>22</u>



The affliction of total deafness at birth or early in life often leads to a limitation in educational development, and it is the purpose of the Association to assist the deaf and dumb to overcome the effects of their disabilities.

The welfare services for the deaf must therefore be as comprehensive as possible, and in the area of the Association include individual welfare, interpretation, placement in employment, industrial supervision, social welfare and social activities, visiting the deaf in their homes and hospitals, religious and spiritual care.

Interpretation is an all important part of the work. It is often required in connection with interviews and consultations in which conversations and explanations must be conveyed to deaf persons in terms which they can clearly understand, and it is essential on those occasions that a deaf person has with him an experienced officer to act as interpreter.

The problem of communication prevents many deaf persons from enjoying the companionship of hearing persons and a Centre or Institute for the Deaf, such as is provided in Kendal Street, Blackburn, helps to mitigate the sense of social isolation which they may otherwise experience.



### Other Handicapped Persons

The Committee also provides welfare services for persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity, and the object of the scheme is to provide for handicapped persons in the General Classes welfare services comparable with those which have for many years been available to blind persons.

A Welfare Officer is employed specifically to assist handicapped persons, to give advice and guidance on personal problems and in general to promote their welfare.

Advantage has also been taken of the permissive clauses in the scheme to provide -

- (a) practical assistance for handicapped persons in their homes
- (b) lectures, games and recreational facilities in social centres, and also outings
- (c) facilities for handicapped persons in travelling to and from the social centre

Carry out adaptations in their homes, and provide additional facilities to secure greater comfort or convenience, and to defray in whole or part the cost of holidays for some handicapped persons.

During the year a varied programme was arranged at the Social Centre including films, concerts and social evenings, talks on holidays in Europe, Canada and the U.S.A. illustrated by colour films, and handicrafts.

A Social Centre is established at Lees Hall, St. Peter Street, and is convenient in so far as it is situated centrally and provides ground floor accommodation.

The facilities in the Hall are limited and there is a great need for larger and better equipped premises with adequate toilet and kitchen facilities, improved storage accommodation for handicraft materials and equipment, and parking space for handicapped persons' vehicles.

It is hoped that in the early part of the 10 year plan a new Social Centre will be available.

A specially converted 'bus for the more severely handicapped who are unable to use public transport and who are not provided with hand or electrically propelled vehicles would be a great asset. This would enable more handicapped persons to share in the fellowship of a social centre and make possible the provision of an occasional outing for many who would otherwise be confined to their homes with little or no contact with the outside world.

The number of handicapped persons on the Department's Register at the end of 1962 was 202, and a total of 1933 visits were made to the homes of these persons during the year.

The following tables show the age groups and disabilities of the handicapped persons:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
11 to 15 years of age	7	2
16 " 20 " " "	5	1
21 " 30 " " "	10	7
31 " 40 " " "	12	8
41 " 50 " " "	27	27
51 " 60 " " "	28	36
61 " 65 " " "	15	10
66 years and over	3	4
	<u>107</u>	<u>95</u>

Disability

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Amputations	8	2
Arthritis and Rheumatism	4	34
Congenital malformation and deformities	1	3
Diseases of digestive and urinary system	2	1
Diseases of the heart	4	3
Diseases of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis)	4	-
Epilepsy	5	1
Injuries of the head	3	1
Injuries or diseases of the limbs or spine (other than tuberculosis)	17	4
Multiple sclerosis, poliomyelitis, paralysis, etc.	36	31
Neuroses, psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders.	5	4
Spastics	17	10
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	-	1
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	-
	<u>107</u>	<u>95</u>

A number of voluntary workers give regular and valuable help particularly at the Social Centre each week, and several people have on special occasions placed themselves and their cars at our disposal to convey handicapped persons to and from the Centre.

The Rotary Club and students of the Grammar School have taken an active interest in the welfare of the physically handicapped.

### Registration of Homes

Persons who carry on Disabled Person's Homes and Homes for Aged Persons are required by Sec.37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to apply to the Local Authority for registration of the Homes.

Five Homes are registered, viz:

	<u>Accommodation</u>
Nazareth House, Preston New Road .....	32 women and 22 men
Liverpool House, Audley Range .....	8 women
Richardson Home for Deaf Women, Billinge End Road .....	38 "
Franciscan Convent, East Park Road ...	15 "
"Hawkhurst", Shear Bank Road .....	5 "

These Homes are visited periodically, and reports are submitted to the Committee.

### Burials

During the year arrangements for burial were made in 11 cases at a cost of £241.0.9., and a sum of £181.8.9. was recovered from various sources towards the expenditure: and for cremation in 10 cases at a cost of £226.11.6. and a sum of £164.17.9. was recovered.

### Police Reports

During 1962 I received from the Chief Constable copies of police reports with respect to 27 cases; in 22 of these cases appropriate action was taken by the Welfare Services Department, and no action was necessary by the Department in the remaining 5 cases.

## Contributions and Subscriptions

The following grants were made during 1962 under Sec.31 of the National Assistance Act, which empowers a local authority to make contributions to the fund of any voluntary organisation whose activities consist of or include the provision of recreation or meals for old people:-

Queen's Hall 'over 60' Club	...	...	...	£100
Salvation Army 'over 60' Club	...	...	...	£ 30
Lees Hall 'over 60' Club	...	...	...	£ 25
Community House Club	...	...	...	£ 25
Old Age Pensioners' Association, Clayton Street	...	...	...	£ 25
Old Age Pensioners' Association, St. Andrew's Street	...	...	...	£ 25
Blackburn Disabled Persons' Group	...	...	...	£ 40
Women's Voluntary Services	...	...	...	£ 75
'Goodwill Club'	...	...	...	£ 25

A grant of £50 was made to Nazareth House under Sec.26(6) of the Act, which empowers a local authority to make contributions to the funds of any voluntary organisation which provides accommodation for aged or handicapped persons.



The following subscriptions to organisations, etc. were also approved by the Council:-

North Regional Association for the Blind ..	£ 42. 2. 2.
Royal National Institute for the Blind (Placement Service) .....	£110. 1. 0.
National Library for the Blind .....	£103.19. 0.
Nuffield Talking Book Library for the Blind .....	£ 3.10. 0.
Blackburn & Darwen Visiting Society for the Blind .....	£150. 0. 0.
National Association of Workshops for the Blind .....	£ 15.15. 0.
North Western Area - National Association of Workshops for the Blind .....	£ 5. 0. 0.
Northern Employers' Association of Skip and Basket Makers .....	£ 4.10. 0.
Blackburn Chamber of Trade .....	£ 2. 2. 0.
North & East Lancashire Welfare Association for the Deaf .....	£944. 0. 0.
Methodist Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Society .....	£ 2. 2. 0.
North West Standing Conference of Welfare Authorities .....	£ 5. 5. 0.

Grants totalling £900 were received from the Blackburn & District Joint Finance Committee for the Blind towards the cost of providing employment for blind persons.



## Voluntary Assistance

I have referred in various sections of the Report to the services of voluntary workers, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge in general the valuable assistance given by individuals and organisations in the Hostels, to the aged in their homes, to the blind and physically handicapped.

The assistance given has taken many forms and sincere thanks are due to all who have given so generously of their time and talents.

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The year has not been free from complications and difficulties, but the members of the Staff have been equal to the many and varied demands, and I am pleased also to acknowledge the interest and support of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Committee.

Yours truly,

T. C. Armistead,

Director of Welfare Services





